Indo-Iran Cooperation to root out extremism

1682. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran have decided to cooperate in rooting out extremism from the region;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any action plan has been undertaken by the two countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) India and Iran have held regular consultations on the existing and emerging threats to regional peace and stability, including from international terrorism. This was reflected in the Tehran Declaration, signed by Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President of Iran Sayed Mohammad Khatami, during Prime Minister's visit to Iran in April 2001. The Declaration condemned states that aid, abet, and directly support international terrorism and extremism and called on the international community to intensify its efforts to combat terrorism. In the Declaration, India and Iran also reiterated their resolve to work to strengthen the international consensus and legal regimes against terrorism, including early finalization of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

During the Home/Interior Secretary level talks held between India and Iran in January this year, both sides resolved to enter into close cooperation in eradicating the scourge of terrorism. The areas of cooperation discussed also included law enforcement.

During the recent visit of Mr. Hasan Roohani, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council of Iran, India and Iran condemned terrorism and agreed to cooperate for combating international terrorism in the region.

Misuse of Diplomatic Passports

1683. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Head of Missions and Posts are not adhering

to the guidelines issued by his Ministry for use of diplomatic passports strictly for official purposes and allow its use during their foreign postings;

(b) if so, the number of cases where diplomatic passports have been misused during last one year; and

(c) what punitive action has been initiated against the concerned officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Visit of a emissary from Moscow

1684. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a emissary from Moscow visited New Delhi, recently, and

(b) if so, the decisions taken at the meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. V.l.Trubnikov visited India on 17-18 July, 2002 for the 5th Session of the Indo-Russian Joint Working Group (JWG) on Afghanistan. Foreign Secretary Mr. Kanwal Sibal and Mr.Trubnikov led the Indian and Russian delegations respectively for the JWG on Afghanistan. During this visit, Mr.Trubnikov also called on Deputy Prime Minister Mr. L.K. Advani, Minister of External Affairs Mr. Yashwant Sinha and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and National Security Adviser Mr. Brajesh Mishra.

The Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit is enclosed.

Statement

Joint Statement issued on the occasion of 5th Session of

India-Russia Joint Working Group on Afghanistan—17-18 July 2002

The fifth meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi on 17-18 July, 2002. Foreign Secretary